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Weekend, March 21-23, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

SPRING TV PREVIEW

A breath of fresh air. Old faves like "Game of Thrones" and "Mad Men" are going to be back on the air soon and we have the dates and details you need to know. **Rule the remote.** You should also know about all the funny, innovative and sometimes odd shows coming to the small screen, and keeping you decidedly indoors, the next few months. PAGES 12, 14

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1 NEWS

Top 3

What's trending at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: "Wheel of Fortune" contestant makes incredible lucky guess'

2 'VIDEO: Reds pitcher Aroldis Chapman hit by line drive, leaves game'

3 'VIDEO: Pharrell's hit song becomes anthem for International Day of Happiness (Roundup)'

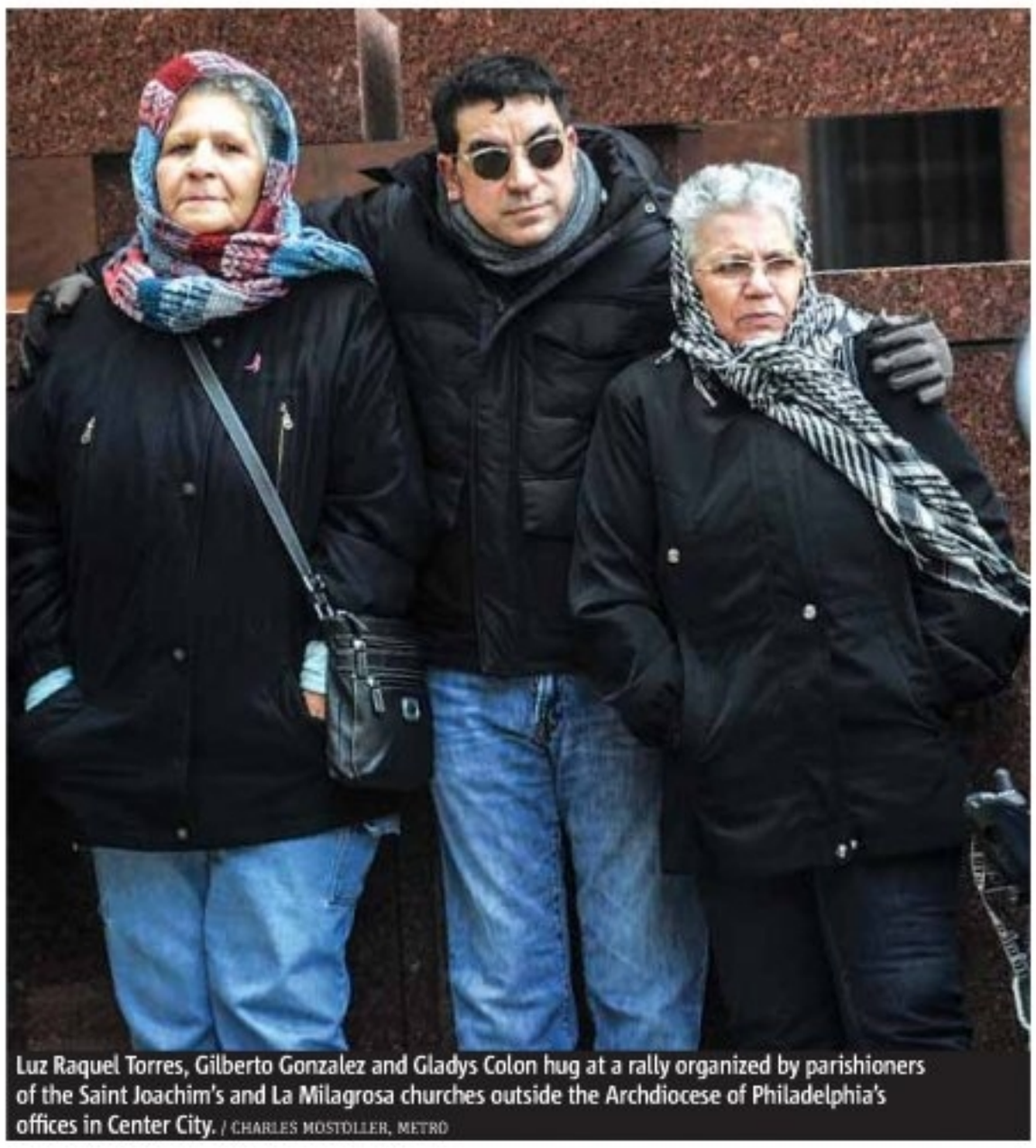
Local tweet

"My billion dollar bracket is already ruined"

The odds were not in @Jake_OBrien16's favor.

Catholics rally to give church a second chance

Keeping the faith. Dogged Catholics are hoping the Archdiocese may help to reopen closed churches.



Luz Raquel Torres, Gilberto Gonzalez and Gladys Colon hug at a rally organized by parishioners of the Saint Joachim's and La Milagrosa churches outside the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's offices in Center City. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

At 1903 Spring Garden, Philadelphia's oldest Latino church, La Milagrosa, no longer has its holy artifacts, its Virgin or its stained glass windows. The church was bought by a developer, who is seeking zoning variances to demolish it and build seven housing units.

"If you ever see the eyes of these elderly people I represent, you will feel badly in your heart because these people don't even know how to fight," said Miguel Ortiz, a longtime member of La Milagrosa, which opened in 1912 and closed last year.

Ortiz was among the Catholic protesters outside the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on Thursday asking for Archbishop William Chaput to grant an audience to members of closed parishes.

The Archdiocese did not respond to requests for comment on the protests.

Catholics from La Milagrosa were joined by others from Mater Dolorosa and Saint Joachim's churches in Frankford, which were merged in 2013 with Holy Innocents Catholic Church in nearby Juniata. "There's not a Catholic church in Frankford for the first time in 168 years," said organizer Pat Smiley. "We never had an opportunity or were asked if we wanted to merge."

Joined by about 20 fellow protesters, Smiley and Ortiz both asked Chaput to reopen their churches.

"We are here because in three days you are going to Rome with Gov. Corbett and Mayor Nutter," Smiley said in her address to Chaput, delivered with a megaphone. "How can we host the World Meeting of Families when the families of Philadelphia are not heard?"

Ortiz maintained that the former La Milagrosa Church, which technically was owned and sold by the Vincentian Fathers, should not have been allowed to close by the Archdiocese. There are no other Catholic churches that only give services in Spanish, he said, and most former parishioners now go to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul for celebrations.

"The last time the cathedral was full was for Our Lady of Guadalupe — the 12th of December," Ortiz said. "They want to use the Spanish Catholics as a flag in the city of Philadelphia, and yet they don't want to serve them."

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Future of the faith

Many Catholic churches in Philly closed in 2013 or merged with nearby parishes.

- La Milagrosa, the city's oldest Spanish-speaking church, was sold by the Vincentian Fathers and closed in 2013.
- The Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia merged Mater Dolorosa and Saint Joachim's in Frankford with Holy Innocents in Juniata.
- Some members have adapted, but others are struggling.

Quoted

"We're not fighting. We're just trying to speak up. As a good Catholic, I think it is our duty to say, 'This is not right.' This is affecting other people's lives."
Ortiz

Protest? Pol seeks to ban SEPTA strikes

A Montgomery County lawmaker introduced legislation in Harrisburg that would prevent SEPTA workers from going on strike.

Republican state Rep. Kate Harper introduced a bill Thursday that would add SEPTA's workers to the list of public employees, including police, who are not permitted to go on strike during labor disputes. Nearly 5,000 SEPTA workers, including bus drivers, have been working without a contract since 12:01 a.m. on March 15.

Harper introduced a similar bill in 2009.

"I believe that SEPTA is essential to the functioning of the southeastern Pennsylvania region," Harper told a local media outlet. METRO

Homicide

Man killed in East Falls

A 36-year-old man was shot and killed about 1 a.m. Thursday at the Philadelphia Housing Authority's Abbottsford Homes, on the 3200 block of Defense Terrace, according to reports.

The victim died from two gunshot wounds to his head at point-blank range, police said. METRO

Donation

Police get grant for vests

A safety equipment grant will be donated to the Philadelphia Police Department in honor of Officer Charles Cassidy, who was shot and killed in the line of duty in 2007.

The Spirit of Blue Foundation is making this donation with financial support from the Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin-Robbins Community Foundation.

Ballistic bulletproof vests will be purchased for officers in the 35th District in North Philadelphia, in which Cassidy served. METRO

By the numbers

$10K

The amount of grant money the Philadelphia Police Department will receive

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Honor. Memorial park planned for collapse site in Center City

The site of last June's deadly Center City building collapse, which killed six and injured 13, will become a memorial park, Mayor Michael Nutter announced Thursday.

Fundraising for a memorial park started several months ago after a petition was started by Nancy Winkler, city treasurer and mother of Anne Bryan, 24, who was shopping at the Salvation Army and died in the collapse. The Salvation Army agreed to give up the property for the park.

Gerard H. Sweeney, president of Brandywine Realty Trust and chair of the 22nd & Market Memorial finance committee, said the group estimates the cost of the park at $250,000, of which $50,000 has already been raised. The rest of the funds, Sweeney said, will come from individual, corporate and foundation donations. "This is the best and most appropriate use of the site," he said. "It [will] create a moment of reflection in the city. Otherwise, it goes un-commemorated, and that's simply a tragedy."

Collapse site on June 5, 2013
FILE PHOTO

On April 1, the park's design will be unveiled. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts will hold a design competition for the memorial. The park should be finished by June 5 of this year.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA

Funds sought for more food trucks

Gretchen Fantini talks to customers at the Sweet Box Cupcakes food truck in Love Park on Thursday afternoon, the first official day of spring. U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) on Thursday pushed for an Economic Development Administration grant to assist in the growing food truck business. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Education

Three new high schools opening

Three new, non-selective district high schools will open later this year, and the Office of New School Models will host an open house Wednesday. Eighth-grade students can apply online starting Monday. For information, visit www.philasd.org.

METRO

Suicide attempt

Man shoots himself in hospital lobby

A man shot himself early Thursday morning in the ER lobby of Inspira Medical Center in Woodbury, N.J. Officials said it was a suicide attempt. The man's condition is unknown. METRO

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Jerome Chaney 1106 • Virginia C Fletcher 1068 • Nafis R Williams 1000
Jason Daniel Spence 3103 • Lucious Diallo Johnson 36
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Busts. Cops nab four 'johns' in Kensington prostitution sting

Four alleged would-be johns were arrested and charged with soliciting prostitution Wednesday after the Citywide Vice Unit conducted an undercover sting on Kensington Avenue, officials announced.

John Nguyen, 41, of Pennway Street; Aaron Anderson, 25, of Sharpnack Street; Oscar Sibri 37, of Cottman Avenue; and Omar Gonzalez, 22, of Cottage Street, are accused of soliciting prostitution in Kensington from undercover police officers.

All suspects are from Philadelphia. All are charged with patronizing prostitution and soliciting.

Police also confiscated $933 in cash, a 2003 Chevrolet Impala, a 2004 Chrysler Town and Country, a 2007 Chevy Van and a 2010 Toyota Corolla during the sting in the police department's 24th district. METRO

New Jersey

Smoking ban moves forward

A bill that would ban smoking at all parks and public beaches in New Jersey passed through the state Assembly on Thursday.

The bill now moves to the state Senate. A vote has not yet been scheduled.

Violators would be hit with a $250 fine for a first offense and up to $1,000 for more than two violations. METRO

Going up in smoke

Alex Ranzetti smokes a cigar during the 12th annual Zarwin Baum March Madness event, which brought together area VIPs to raise money for Philabundance's Fare & Square grocer. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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Possible debris near Australia a 'credible lead' for missing jet

Information.
Officials said an aircraft had dropped a series of marker buoys in the area.

Aircraft and ships plowed through dire weather in search of objects floating in remote seas off Australia that Malaysia's government called a "credible lead" in the trans-continental hunt for a jetliner missing for nearly two weeks.

New Zealand's air force, whose P-3K2 Orion returned from a 2 1/2-hour search mission in the Indian Ocean early on Friday, said it had found nothing that could have come from the missing plane.

"The crew never found any object of significance," Kevin Short, air vice marshal at New Zealand's Defense Forces, told Radio New Zealand.

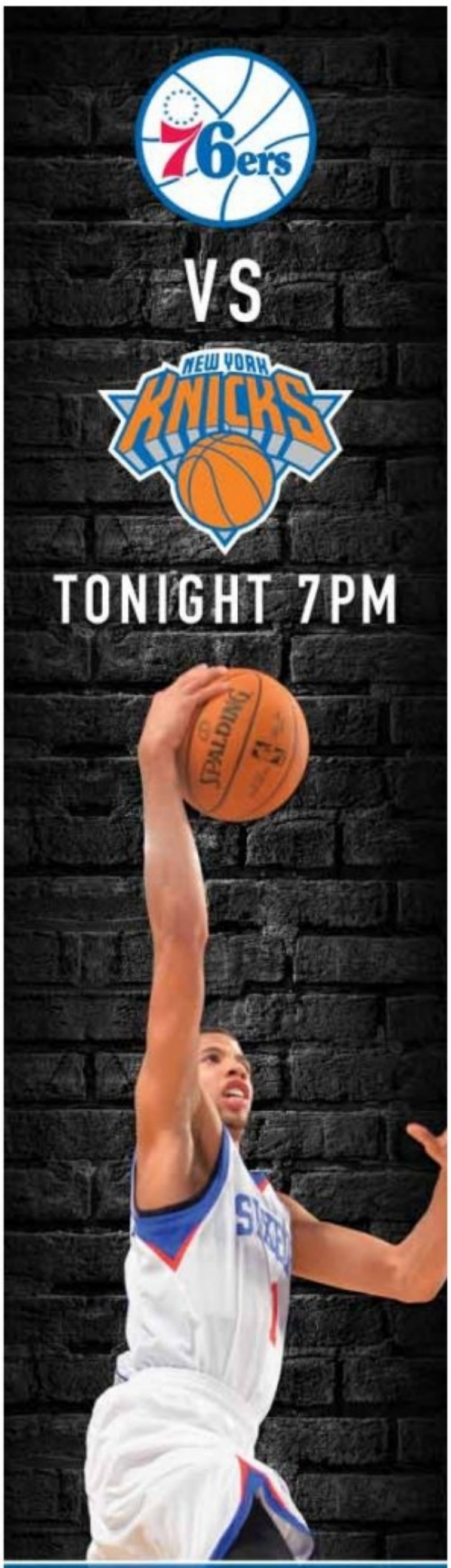
"Visibility wasn't very good, which makes it harder to search the surface of the water," he said, adding that the plane had flown at around 1,000 feet over the sea.

The large objects which Australian officials said were spotted by satellite four days ago are the most promising find in days as searchers scour a vast area for the plane lost with 239 people on board.

A Norwegian merchant ship arrived in the area on Thursday, but officials cautioned it could take days to confirm if the objects were part of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777. Malaysia's government said the search would continue elsewhere despite the sighting in the southern Indian Ocean. REUTERS

Satellite image showing objects that may be possible debris of the missing plane are shown in a revised area 185 km to the southeast of the original search area. / GETTY IMAGES

Miles
1.5K
The area where the objects were spotted is around 1,500 miles southwest of Perth, Australia.



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Security detail. Gitmo board weighs bin Laden bodyguard case

A suspected Osama bin Laden bodyguard, who has been held at the Guantanamo Bay military prison for 12 years, faced a national security board on Thursday weighing whether he should remain in detention there.

Ali Ahmad al-Razihi, 33, is suspected of having been part of what intelligence officials call the Dirty 30 security detail around bin Laden.

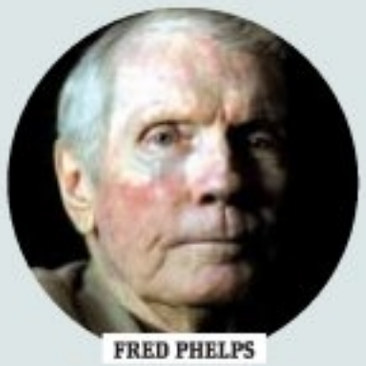
Razihi's hearing before the Periodic Review Board was to re-examine whether he should continue to be held without charge at Guantanamo Bay or be transferred, possibly home to Yemen. One of the two U.S. military representatives for Razihi read a statement to the panel that said Razihi was focused on returning to Yemen, getting married and helping with the family fruit and vegetable business. **REUTERS**

Camp Delta at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba / GETTY IMAGES

Anti-gay

Westboro Baptist Church founder Fred Phelps dies

Fred Phelps, the pastor who led a small Kansas church's vitriolic "God Hates F—s" anti-gay campaign at public events across the United States, including military funerals, has died, the church said Thursday.



FRED PHELPS
GETTY IMAGES

Phelps, whose Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka won a 2011 freedom-of-speech U.S. Supreme Court decision related to its anti-gay picketing, died late Wednesday in a Kansas hospice. He was 84. **REUTERS**

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THE NAKED NEWS

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

TOM FOREMAN IS A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN.

When I get my own TV show with no bosses involved, you can bet your smartphone I'll call it "Naked Headhunter News." I don't know what the program will be about, but I guarantee that a lot of people will take a peek based on the title alone.

I've had this idea for so long that I wonder if I should consider a copyright infringement suit over the reality show "Naked and Afraid." Probably not. The better plan would be to get in on that action and develop a series of spin-offs: "Naked and Feeling a Draft"; "Naked and Pretty Damn Proud of Myself"; "Naked, Afraid, and AMISH!" You get the picture.

The reason I mention this has nothing to do with nudity. It has to do with a new study about how we get information. ("Naked and Looking for a Newspaper"!) The Media Insight Project surveyed a bunch of folks about how much they rely on TV, radio, papers and the Internet to get news, and found many fascinating details. Among them: Only about one in three news consumers goes beyond the headlines.

I've always suspected this, but seeing it locked into numbers makes it more real ("Naked and Depressed"). I understand that we're all busy. I understand that the world is full of information sources fighting for our attention. But I also understand, from many years of covering the news, that plenty of stories defy explanation and understanding when they are reduced to a single, truncated line.

For example, back in October you could have written the headline "Obamacare Website Launches," or you could have written "Huge Problems with Obamacare." Both would have been correct — and incomplete. ("Naked and Uninformed"!)

The solution? We in the media must give you a reason to go past those headlines: important stories, honest reporting and rock solid facts. ("Naked and Old-School"!) And you? Well, you're already doing your part. After all, you read this far, and not many do.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

CNN = POLITICS

Headlines don't tell the whole story. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

The Media Insight Project surveyed a bunch of folks about how much they rely on TV, radio, papers and the Internet to get news, and the researchers found many fascinating details.

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Bond, James Bond.
Jetset the globe like 007 — for a price

A couple not satisfied by merely watching James Bond on the screen, and who have $815,575 to spare, could live something resembling the life of the fabled Agent 007 with a 21-day, seven-country luxury tour.

The package comes with luxury hotels, three-star gourmet meals, private jets, sports cars, casino stops and speedboats.

VeryFirstTo.com, the luxury goods and services website that announced the tour, expects it would appeal to "a huge Bond fan" — preferably a couple, since the price is for two, said communications manager Amar Thapen.

The tour starts off in London and will hit Monte Carlo, Venice and Istanbul before moving on to spots in India and Thailand, all of which have served as locales for Bond movies.

It winds up in Jamaica at the Goldeneye estate, now a luxury hotel, where author and former intelligence agent Ian Fleming wrote some of the novels on which the films are based.

"Whichever couple purchases the trip will be living the Bond life for 21 exhilarating days in seven countries that have hosted many of the iconic films," according to a VeryFirstTo press release. REUTERS

CAR CHASES ARE PRESUMABLY NOT INCLUDED. GETTY IMAGES

Catholic web

Vatican library will digitize its archives and put them online

The Vatican library began a project on Thursday to digitize thousands of historical manuscripts, dating from the origins of the Church to the 20th century, and make them available online.

Working with the Japanese technology group NTT Data, the library intends to scan and digitally archive about 1.5 million pages from the library's collection of manuscripts, which comprises some 82,000 items and 41 million pages. The initial project will take four years and may be extended.

"The manuscripts that will be digitized extend from pre-Columbian America to China and Japan in the Far East, passing through all the languages and cultures that have marked the culture of Europe," said Monsignor Jean-Louis Brugues, archivist and librarian of the Holy Roman Church. REUTERS

Items

1.6M

The Vatican library dates from the late 14th century and forms one of the world's most important collections of historical documents. It includes 1.6 million books and large coin and picture collections, as well as its manuscript archives.

Find of the century?

US scrap dealer finds $20 million Faberge egg

When a scrap metal dealer from the Midwest bought a golden ornament at a junk market, it never crossed his mind that he was the owner of a $20 million Faberge egg hailing from the court of imperial Russia.

In a mystery fit for the tumultuous history of Russia's ostentatious elite, the 3-inch golden egg was spirited out of St. Petersburg after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and then disappeared for decades.

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In desperation, he searched the Internet and realized he might have the egg that Russian Tsar Alexander III had given to his wife for Easter in 1887. REUTERS

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2 CULTURE

Returning from 2001

'24: Live Another Day'

Fox, returns May 5, 8 p.m.
Yes, that "24." Anti-terrorism agent Jack Bauer returns for another horribly stressful 24 hours of his life. No word yet on the return of the cougar.

Reruns be damned!

Spring is here, but that doesn't necessarily mean you shouldn't stay inside and watch all of the great shows that are about to be back on TV. **LISA WEIDENFELD**

Returning shows you're already watching

'Game of Thrones'

HBO, returns April 6, 9 p.m.: Which beloved character will be brutally murdered by a conniving noble this year? Perhaps just a light maiming? If you've already read the books, keep it to yourself, and enjoy the return of everyone's favorite fantasy version of a Shakespearean tragedy.

'Veep'

HBO, returns April 6, 10 p.m.: Once you've finished watching the political maneuvering and betrayals on "Game of Thrones," stick around for more of the same, but funnier and with more cursing — and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

'Mad Men'

AMC, returns April 13, 10 p.m.: The final season of "Mad Men" premieres soon, but you're only getting seven episodes before the show disappears again until — brace yourself — spring 2015 for the final 14. Comfort yourself with a martini this afternoon.

'Nurse Jackie'

Showtime, returns April 13, 9 p.m.: Remember when Merritt Wever won an Emmy for this show and her entire acceptance speech was, "Thank you so much. I gotta go. Bye"? Said so perfectly! Regardless of whatever urgent business she had at the Emmys, she found time to film the sixth season of this dark comedy.

Don't remind us that we've been waiting 10 long months for more "True Blood." / HBO

'Orange Is the New Black'

Netflix, returns June 6, midnight: Bit of a cliffhanger at the end of the first season! Presumably, everyone has kissed and made up in time for the second season of Netflix's heartbreaking and hilarious prison drama.

'True Blood'

HBO, returns June 15, 9 p.m.: The vampire/werewolf/fairy Southern Gothic drama returns this June for a final season of love triangles and bad decision-making. There will probably be some new creatures and a series of hunky supernatural men with improbably hot gym bodies, because this show knows what you like.

Returning shows you should be watching

'Call the Midwife'

PBS, returns March 30, 8 p.m.: Few shows spend as much time addressing issues of systemic poverty as this one. Also, almost every episode features a scene of childbirth in all its gross and painful glory. If that doesn't reel you in, the show is sweet, funny, well-acted and full of awesome period-specific costuming from the 1950s.

'Orphan Black'

BBC America, returns April 19, 9 p.m.: Without spoiling too much (there's still time for you to binge watch the first season on Amazon Prime before the premiere, so go do that now), this sci-fi drama has so far featured the same actress in seven different roles, and she's spectacular in all of them.

TATIANA MASLANY PLAYS SEVEN DIFFERENT ROLES IN "ORPHAN BLACK." / BBC AMERICA

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FRIDAY, MARCH 28
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Witches, gangs and geeks face off

There's a whole host of characters you've never seen before in your future. **LISA WEIDENFELD**

Comedy

'Surviving Jack'

Fox, premieres March 27, 9:30 p.m.: Christopher Meloni will never top Gene, the proud sweater-fondler he played in "Wet Hot American Summer," but he's trying anyway with this sitcom about a stay-at-home dad. It's set in the '90s, because cellphones ruin all dramatic tension.

'Trip Tank'

Comedy Central, premieres April 2, 10:30 p.m.: Various comedians and animation styles combine for a sketch comedy cartoon that's likely to be obscene and offensive to some, quotable dinner conversation for others.

'Last Week Tonight with John Oliver'

HBO, premieres April 27, 11 p.m.: HBO dips its toe in the "Daily Show" pond by stealing a popular "Daily Show" correspondent.

"SURVIVING JACK" STARS CHRISTOPHER MELONI. / FOX

Battle of the dramatic computer use shows

Hey, hey, the geeks are all here in "Silicon Valley." / ISABELLA VOSMIKOVA

'Silicon Valley'

HBO, premieres April 6, 10:30 p.m.: Remember when "30 Rock" faced off against "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" as shows about late night shows? This spring, the hot topic is the people who make your technology. "Silicon Valley" comes from Mike Judge, of "Office Space" and "Idiocracy" fame. Funny dudes are involved (see above) but the only woman appearing in the trailer is a stripper. Way to combat stereotypes about the tech world, guys.

'Halt and Catch Fire'

AMC, premieres June 1, 10 p.m.: Set in the '80s, "Halt" is about a team of people who try to out-IBM IBM in the PC race. AMC has a pretty solid track record — minus "The Killing" — and we all need more '80s music and clothing in our lives. This could be worth tuning in for '80s hair alone.

Let's do the twists

'Salem'

WGN America, premieres April 20, 9 p.m.: Sure, you thought the Salem story was about the effects of mass hysteria in a puritanical New England town, but what if there were ACTUAL WITCHES involved? Scary times ahead, and look out for some hot Cotton Mather action as well.

'Gang Related'

Fox, premieres May 20, 9 p.m.: Ryan Lopez is a new member of his city's gang task force, but he's also ... a member of a gang! Will his loyalties be tested? Will there be good guys in the police ... but also in the gang? Signs point to yes.

"GANG RELATED" PREMIERES IN MAY ON FOX. / FOX

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Dance. Kun-Yang Lin draws inspiration from across the globe

Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers perform "Be/Longing: Light/Shadow" at Drexel's Mandell Theater (33rd and Chestnut) Friday and Saturday.
MATTHEW WRIGHT

Before any of the dancers in Kun-Yang Lin's company take a single step on the stage of Drexel's Mandell Theater, an unbelievable amount of movement will have already taken place. The Taiwanese-born, Philly-based choreographer journeyed to Mexico, Venice, Indonesia and — less exotically — the Jersey Shore in the years prior to the creation of "Be/Longing: Light/Shadow," the evening-length piece which will open Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers' 2014 season.

"Each time you create a work, it's always an experience you unveil," Lin says. "As an artist, traveling for me is very important. Sometimes I think of myself almost as a researcher, like a scientist trying to uncover certain things. You immerse yourself and somehow the work just emerges."

The initial inspiration for "Be/Longing: Light/Shadow" came in 2008, when Lin visited ancient pyramids in Mexico while working with one of the country's premiere dance companies. "The pyramids grow from the roots toward the light," he recalls, "and that simplicity struck me and started my head spinning."

A year later he visited the Venice Biennale and was captivated by Brazilian artist Lygia Pape's exhibition of threads of golden light; later he was equally stunned by the haunting sculptures of London-based artist Anish Kapoor.

Last year, Lin traveled to Indonesia for an encounter with three other Asian dance masters. The final piece came with a solitary winter jaunt to the Jersey Shore.

The multidisciplinary show that resulted brings together Lin's dancers with master puppet artist Hua-Hua Zhang, mandala artist Tatiana Hassan, lighting designer Stephen Petrilli and composer Cory Neale.

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Coming attraction.
A Dum Dum Girl digs working with the boys.

Finding a release that's 'Too True'

Dum Dum Girls play a sold out show at Johnny Brenda's on March 23. / SUBPOP

When it comes to Dum Dum Girls' music, boys figure pretty highly: case in point, the Girls' January-released album "Too True," another result from head honcho Dee Dee Penny's unique working relationship with producers Richard Gottehrer and Sune Rose Wagner. Gottehrer's musical pedigree stretches from 1960s Brill Building pop to working with Blondie and The Go-Go's to his current role as co-manager of The Raveonettes. Wagner, of course is a member of the latter band, and the three have weaved in and out of each other's musical lives for the past four years.

"I'm a very insular person," explains Penny, whose real name is Kristin Welchez, half of which comes courtesy of husband and fellow musician, Brandon Welchez of Crocodiles.

"The music I make is very much a personal project; its creation is a very personal experience. The idea of working with anyone …" she pauses, as if recalling something painful. "Well, I'm a little cold to that idea. But when I met Richard, it was such a natural pairing. I had such a great respect for the many things he'd done in the past. It was Richard's idea to bring Sune in. How he regards us as artists, Richard thinks about us in a similar way."

Still, at the end of the day, this is her record, written alone in a couple of weeks in her Brooklyn apartment in between touring. "Too True" sees the Northern Californian native stretching her penwork to create songs with a more literary feel. Not that there isn't the buzz saw psych guitar workouts of old, but it's a more vocal album, playing up the Dum Dums' wall-of-sound girl group aspect. Given that Welchez actually lost her voice, delaying the record, that aspect is surprising.

"If you look at my track record up to this point, this was a very big stretch between releases," Welchez says. "All because my voice crapped out on me. I had such significant vocal problems; I had three months where I didn't sing at all, then six months of rehabilitating my voice and getting back to a place where I could finish the record. It was a physical problem that was also incredibly psychological. Basically, my whole thing was failing on me. It was a mind-f—, for sure."

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Also new to theaters

'Bad Words'

Jason Bateman directs and stars in this "Bad Santa" knockoff about a profane middle-ager who crashes school spelling bees.

'Particle Fever'

Science is awesome, and if you're hooked on the new "Cosmos," take in this thrilling look at last year's Large Hadron Collider experiment, which (probably) found the elusive so-called "God particle."

'Bethlehem'

If you liked last month's Palestinian film "Omar," then here's the exact same film, only from the Israeli side. It's also solid.

"Bad Words" / FOCUS FEATURES

'The Face of Love'

It's always good to see Annette Bening, who here plays a woman who happens upon a man (Ed Harris) who looks exactly like her dead husband.

MATT PRIGGE

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Muppet movie. The second in the rebooted franchise is far loopier than the first.

"Muppets Most Wanted" begins with our felt heroes panicking over how to follow up their 2011 reboot, and mocking the very idea of sequels in song. A more subversive number would assert that sequels are a chance to ditch the pomp and burdensome introductions of a first film and just have fun. Not that "The Muppets" was remotely tedious, though it did have more to prove than its follow-up — that it could revive a dead franchise, that it could recreate the old magic without Jim Henson. A sequel is nothing.

Of course, "Muppets Most Wanted" doesn't have the benefit of earthquaking nostalgia, which the first both exploited and explored. It has to be judged on its own merits. And luckily it's a sprightly and terminally silly construction, certainly the oddest plotted of any of the Muppet movies. The sequel — although as Dr. Bunsen Honeydew points out, this is technically the seventh sequel — finds Kermit and company preyed upon by Dominic Badguy (Ricky Gervais), who convinces them to rush into a European tour. As his surname suggests, he's a thief whose partner, Constantine, is a dead ringer for Kermit, except for his sinister mole.

There's a token homily, but it doesn't come until the very end, and is quickly forgotten anyway. It's mostly mere goofing around. This is a far, far loopier film than the first, with cameos both wearyingly token (Usher, Diddy, Gaga) and bizarre (Toby Jones! Frank Langella! Miranda Richardson!). Constantine gets the best song, in which he dons a leisure suit plus sleazy chain while crooning about armadillos. (Actually the best number goes to Ray Liotta and Danny Trejo singing Boyz II Men. This movie is weird.)

"Muppets Most Wanted" is "Help!" to the first one's "A Hard Day's Night" — a freewheeling block of inventive nonsense that will go undervalued. The Muppet franchise should be filled with dozens of "Muppets Most Wanted"-type numbers, not weak stabs at Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson. That said, it does tragically shortchange Rowlf and Gonzo.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Rowlf accompanies Miss Piggy as she launches into another Celine Dion number. / DISNEY

Review

'Muppets Most Wanted'

Director: James Bobin

Stars: Ricky Gervais, Tina Fey

Rating: PG

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FROZEN (PG) Fri and Sat 10:50, 1:25, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10, 11:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-1:25-4:00-6:35-9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GOD'S NOT DEAD (PG) Fri and Sat 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45, 12:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 1:45, 6:50, 11:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 1:45-6:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 11:15, 4:20, 9:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) 2:20, 7:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) 10:00, 11:05, 1:35, 2:40, 3:50, 6:10, 7:20, 8:25, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 12:20, 5:00, 9:55, 12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 12:20-5:00-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) Fri and Sat 10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 12:45, 1:25, 2:15, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:15, 7:00, 9:00, 9:45, 11:45, 12:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-10:45-11:30-12:45-1:25-2:15-3:30-4:15-5:00-6:15-7:00-9:00-9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:30, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30, 12:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:30-3:25-6:30-9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 2:00, 5:05, 8:05, 11:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 11:00-2:00-5:05-8:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:40, 1:15, 4:05, 6:45, 9:20, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-1:15-4:05-6:45-9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
REPENTANCE (R) 11:45, 5:10, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
SON OF GOD (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:35, 2:50, 6:05, 9:05, 12:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:35-2:50-6:05-9:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 1:00, 1:50, 3:40, 4:30, 5:20, 6:20, 7:10, 8:05, 9:00, 9:50, 11:40, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-11:10-12:00-1:00-1:50-3:40-4:30-5:20-6:20-7:10-8:05-9:00-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
VERONICA MARS (PG-13) 11:25, 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Neshaminy 24
215-396-8050
Route 1 and Bristol Rd.
3 DAYS TO KILL (PG-13) 7:20, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) 11:30, 4:50, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D (R) Fri and Sat 10:10, 2:10, 3:30, 7:30, 8:50, 11:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 10:10-2:10-3:30-7:30-8:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
ABOUT LAST NIGHT (R) Fri and Sat 9:50, 12:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
BAD WORDS (R) Fri and Sat 9:45, 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:45-12:00-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DIVERGENT (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:20, 11:10, 12:00, 1:40, 2:30, 3:20, 5:00, 5:50, 6:40, 8:20, 9:10, 10:00, 11:40, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-11:10-12:00-1:40-2:30-3:20-5:00-5:50-6:40-8:20-9:10-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DIVERGENT: THE IMAX EXPERIENCE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:30, 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 10:50. Digital Presentation;IMAX; Sun 9:30-12:50-4:05-7:20-10:30. Digital Presentation;IMAX
FROZEN (PG) 10:55, 1:50, 4:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GOD'S NOT DEAD (PG) 11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (R) Fri and Sat 9:40, 11:00, 12:20, 1:40, 3:00, 4:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:20, 9:40, 11:00, 12:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:40-11:00-12:20-1:40-3:00-4:20-5:40-7:00-8:20-9:40.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) 12:50, 6:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 10:45, 4:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 1:25, 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:05, 12:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) 9:50, 11:05, 1:35, 2:50, 4:05, 6:35, 7:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (PG) 12:20, 5:20, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) Fri and Sat 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 2:00, 3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 12:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-11:00-12:30-2:00-3:30-4:15-5:00-6:30-7:15-8:00-9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:05, 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-1:25-4:35-7:40-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:40, 3:00, 6:10, 9:20, 12:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 11:40-3:00-6:10-9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 9:25, 12:05, 2:45, 5:25, 8:05, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:25-12:05-2:45-5:25-8:00-10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
POMPEII (PG-13) 10:25, 4:25, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (R) Sun 2:00. CLASSIC SERIES;Digital Presentation
SON OF GOD (PG-13) 1:10, 7:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:15, 11:15, 12:15, 1:15, 2:15, 3:15, 5:15, 6:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-11:15-12:15-1:15-3:15-5:15-6:15-8:15-9:15-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
VERONICA MARS (PG-13) 10:50, 1:45, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Plymouth Meeting Mall 12
888-AMC-4FUN
Next to Plymouth Meeting Mall
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) Fri 12:00, 3:00, 6:00.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 12:15-3:20-6:00.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DALLAS BUYERS CLUB (R) Fri 11:10, 1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-1:25-4:10-7:00-9:50.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
DIVERGENT (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 2:05, 5:15, 8:30. Digital Presentation; Fri 11:45-12:45-3:10-4:00-6:30-7:15-9:00-9:45-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-12:00-1:10-3:10-4:20-6:30-7:35-9:00-9:45-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-12:00-2:00-3:10-5:15-6:30-8:30-9:00-9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:50-4:00-7:10-10:15. Digital Presentation
FROZEN (PG) Fri 11:15, 1:50. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:20-1:00-3:40. DVS-Descriptive Video Service;Digital Presentation
GRAVITY 3D (PG-13) Fri 11:25, 1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 10:00-12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 11:20, 4:20, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 1:50, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) Fri 12:20, 3:25, 6:30, 9:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:10-1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) Fri 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. RealD 3D; Sat and Sun 6:20-9:25. RealD 3D
NON-STOP (PG-13) 11:30, 2:10, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
SON OF GOD (PG-13) 11:40, 2:50, 6:00, 9:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
VERONICA MARS (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40.C INDEPENDENT;CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC Woodhaven 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 13, near I-95 and Woodhaven Road exit
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) Fri 5:45, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:05-5:45-10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-5:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D (R) Fri and Sat 2:10, 3:15, 8:15, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 2:10-3:15-8:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
DIVERGENT (PG-13) Fri 12:45, 2:40, 4:00, 4:50, 6:00, 6:35, 7:15, 8:00, 9:10, 9:45, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 11:00-12:45-2:40-4:00-4:50-6:00-6:35-7:15-8:00-9:10-9:45-10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-12:45-2:40-4:00-4:50-6:00-6:35-7:15-8:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 1:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) Fri 4:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:30-4:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) Fri 2:50, 7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat and Sun 10:10-12:00-2:50-7:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (PG) Fri and Sat 12:30, 5:10, 11:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 12:30-5:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) Fri 12:35, 1:35, 3:20, 4:15, 7:00, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-10:50-12:35-1:35-3:20-4:15-7:00-10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-10:50-12:35-1:35-3:20-4:15-7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) 1:15, 7:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) Fri 3:30, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sat 10:00-3:30-9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D; Sun 10:00-3:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;RealD 3D
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri 12:40, 5:50, 8:25, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 10:05-12:40-5:50-8:25-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:05-12:40-5:50-8:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) Fri 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sat 12:00-2:20-5:00-7:45-10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; Sun 12:00-2:20-5:00-7:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

Bryn Mawr Film Institute
610-527-9898
824 West Lancaster Avenue
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN (PG) Sat 11:00
ELAINE STRITCH: SHOOT ME (NR) Fri 7:00; Sat and Sun 1:45-7:00.
GIRLFRIEND (NR) Sun 11:00
THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (R) Fri 4:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:15, 9:00, 9:30; Sat 1:15-1:45-4:00-4:45-6:45-7:15-9:00-9:30.; Sun 1:15-1:45-4:00-4:45-6:45-7:15.
TIM'S VERMEER (PG-13) Fri 4:30, 7:00, 9:00; Sat 1:30-4:30-7:00-9:00.; Sun 1:30-4:30-7:00.
THE WIND RISES (KAZETACHINU) (PG-13) Fri and Sat 4:15, 9:00; Sun 4:15.

Hiway Theatre
215-886-9800
212 Old York Road
THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (R) Fri 4:15, 7:00, 9:25; Sat 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:25.; Sun 1:30-4:15-7:00.

Reel Cinemas Narberth 2
610-667-0115
129 North Narberth Avenue
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) Fri 4:25, 7:00, 9:20. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sat 1:50-4:25-7:00-9:20. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sun 11:15-1:50-4:25-7:00. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) Fri 4:10, 6:45, 9:20. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sat 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating; Sun 11:00-1:35-4:10-6:45. Digital Presentation;Stadium Seating

Regal Marketplace 24
800-326-3264 341
180 Mill Road
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:05, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D (R) 11:25, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 4:15, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
BEWAKOOFIYAAN (NR) 9:25
DIVERGENT (PG-13) 11:10, 11:40, 12:30, 1:00, 1:45, 2:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30, 6:20, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:45, 9:30, 10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
FROZEN (PG) 11:35, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
GOD'S NOT DEAD (PG) 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40
THE LEGO MOVIE IN 3D (PG) 11:15, 5:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 1:25, 3:55, 6:30, 9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE MONUMENTS MEN (PG-13) 11:05, 1:50, 4:50, 7:35, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) 12:45, 1:20, 3:30, 4:20, 6:15, 6:55, 9:00, 9:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (PG) 11:30, 1:55, 7:40, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) 11:00, 11:50, 12:20, 12:55, 1:40, 2:30, 3:10, 3:40, 4:25, 5:50, 6:40, 7:10, 7:50, 8:30, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) 1:05, 4:10, 7:25, 10:25
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) 12:25, 3:35, 6:45, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
NON-STOP (PG-13) 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 5:10, 7:15, 9:50, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
QUEEN (HINDI) (NR) 12:05, 3:15, 6:35, 9:45
SON OF GOD (PG-13) 12:40, 3:50, 5:30, 7:05, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) 11:45, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

Regal Plymouth Meeting 10
800-326-3264 335
1011 W Ridge Pike
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) 1:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 7:50, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D (R) 1:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:50, 9:20, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
AMERICAN HUSTLE (R) 12:50, 4:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) 1:40, 2:10, 4:20, 7:00, 7:30, 9:40, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (PG) 1:10, 3:50, 4:50, 6:30, 9:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
RIDE ALONG (PG-13) 7:15, 9:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) 1:20, 1:50, 4:10, 4:40, 7:10, 7:40, 10:00, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (R) 12:45, 4:35, 8:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

Ritz 5 Movies
215-440-1184
214 Walnut Street
THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL (R) Fri 12:15, 12:35, 1:15, 2:15, 2:40, 3:10, 3:45, 4:00, 5:00, 5:30, 6:00, 6:45, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30, 9:45, 9:55; Sat 12:15-12:45-1:15-2:15-2:40-3:10-3:45-4:00-5:00-5:30-6:00-6:45-7:00-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:30-9:45-9:55.; Sun 12:15-12:35-1:00-1:15-2:15-2:40-3:10-3:45-4:00-5:00-5:30-6:00-6:45-7:00-7:30-8:00-8:30-9:30-9:45-9:55.

Ritz East
215-925-4535
2nd Street between Walnut and Chestnut
THE LUNCHBOX (DABBA) (PG) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
NYMPHOMANIAC: VOLUME I (NR) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20

Ritz at the Bourse
215-440-1181
400 Ranstead Street
BETHLEHEM (NR) 1:30, 4:15, 7:20, 9:40
THE FACE OF LOVE (PG-13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:20
PARTICLE FEVER (NR) 1:00, 3:55, 7:10, 9:35
PHILOMENA (PG-13) 1:10
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) Fri 12:00
STRANGER BY THE LAKE (L'INCONNU DU LAC) (NR) 1:25, 7:15
TIM'S VERMEER (PG-13) 4:00, 9:40
THE WIND RISES (KAZETACHINU) (PG-13) 3:45, 9:20. SUBTITLED; 6:30.

The Pearl Theatre at Avenue North
215-763-7700
1600 North Broad Street
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE (R) 12:10, 7:10
300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE 3D (R) Fri and Sat 2:50, 5:10, 10:10, 12:30; Sun 2:50-5:10-10:10.
DIVERGENT (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40, 12:30; Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40.
THE LEGO MOVIE (PG) 12:00
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) Fri and Sat 2:30, 4:50, 9:20, 11:30; Sun 2:30-4:50-9:20.
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN 3D (PG) 12:20, 7:20
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00, 12:20; Sun 12:00-2:40-5:20-7:40-10:00.
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) 3:40, 9:30
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:40, 6:40, 12:10; Sun 12:40-6:40.
NON-STOP (PG-13) Fri and Sat 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:40, 12:00; Sun 2:20-4:40-7:00-9:40.
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 12:30; Sun 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00.

Tuttleman IMAX Theater - Franklin Institute
215-448-1111
20th & Benjamin Franklin Parkway
FORCES OF NATURE (1999) (PG-13) Fri 12:15
ICE AGE (PG) Fri 11:15, 2:15, 4:15; Sat and Sun 11:15-1:15-3:15.
RING OF FIRE (NR) Fri; Fri 10:15-3:15.; Sat and Sun 10:15-2:15.
SPACE JUNK (NR) Fri 1:15; Sat and Sun 12:15-4:15.

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DIVERGENT (PG-13) 12:40, 3:55, 7:10, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN (PG) Fri 12:00, 2:45, 5:20, 7:45, 10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
MUPPETS MOST WANTED (PG) Fri 11:50, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 9:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
NEED FOR SPEED (PG-13) Fri 4:05, 10:15
NEED FOR SPEED 3D (PG-13) Fri 1:00, 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
TYLER PERRY'S THE SINGLE MOMS' CLUB (PG-13) Fri 12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

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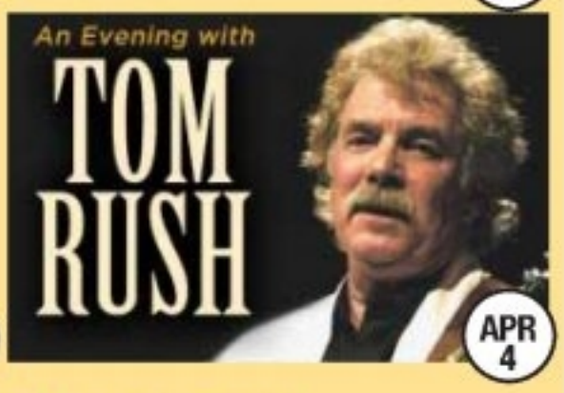

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Let's talk about sex (and fly fishing)

Porking picture. The first part of Lars Von Trier's "porno" is actually his warmest, funniest film.

Lars Von Trier is a funny guy. This might not always be apparent, given that he's tortured an almost blind Bjork ("Dancer in the Dark"), immolated the planet in a fiery apocalypse ("Melancholia") and had Charlotte Gainsbourg snip off a certain ladypart with rusty scissors ("Antichrist"). But even his most heinous on-screen acts are played with a sense of P.T. Barnum relish. He's the cat next to the spilled milk, amused that he went as far as he did. Indeed, the third part of his self-described "Depression" trilogy, which started with "Antichrist," is the warmest and funniest film he's ever made, even though it's about a sex addict (Gainsbourg again) recounting her adventures in bed and elsewhere with a revolving door of strangers, plus Shia LaBeouf.

Admittedly, "warm" only describes the first "volume" of "Nymphomaniac," which has been divided in two. ("Volume II" will be out on April 4, while a second, even longer version, with hardcore inserts, will come later.) It does start grim, with Gainsbourg's Joe lying, bloody, in a dirty alley. She's rescued by a recluse, Seligman (Stellan Skarsgard), who becomes her sounding board as she recounts tales of her youthful hyper-prurience (when she's played by Stacy Martin).

Actually, he's not a sounding board at all. A bookworm and virgin, he constantly interrupts her with digressions, semi-related stories, anything that doesn't have to do with sex. Hearing the prefix "nympho" makes him think of fly fishing, because nymph is a name of a technique. Later he will talk about rugelach. (It's all germane — sort of.) Seligman essentially functions as living footnotes, annotating Joe's stories with all the brainy references that the less gutter-brained sect of "Nymphomaniac"'s audience will get. (When

Review

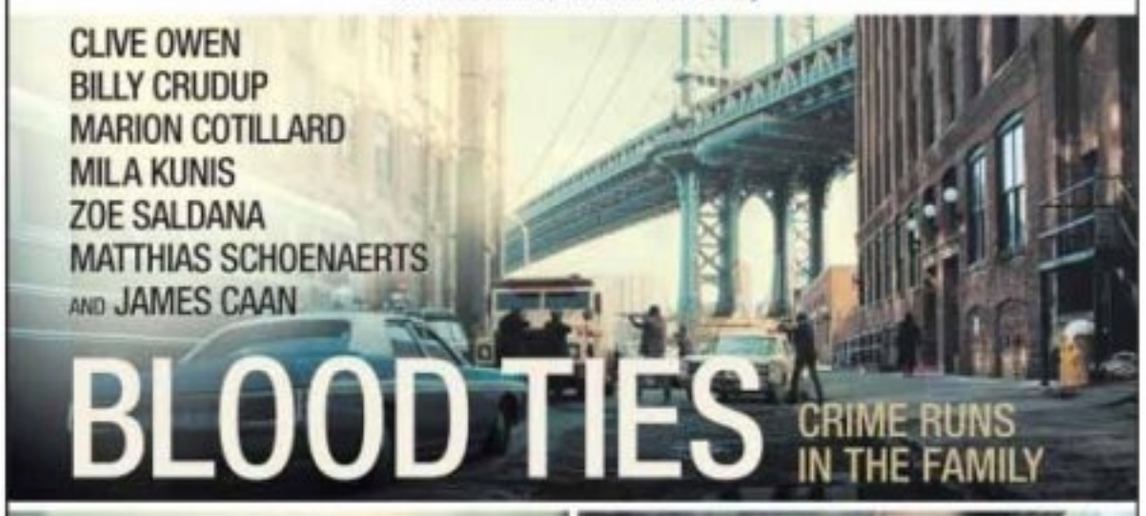
'Nymphomaniac: Volume I'

Director: Lars Von Trier

Stars: Charlotte Gainsbourg, Stellan Skarsgard

Rating: NR

"A RIVETINGLY AUTHENTIC NEW YORK COPS-AND-CRIME DRAMA."
Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly



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NOTICE
SEPTA'S FISCAL YEAR 2015 ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) will conduct public hearings regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Service Plan.

The proposed Annual Service Plan includes changes to the following SEPTA routes: 35, 43, 68, 91, 108, 201, 205 and 206. It also includes the discontinuance of Route 116. Revisions to the Service Standards and Process document are also proposed. A Community Benefit Analysis has been performed for all of these projects. Implementation of the recommended projects will proceed pending the outcome of the public hearing process, SEPTA Board approval, and available funding.

Proposal

Listed below are the projects and descriptions included in SEPTA's FY 2015 Annual Service Plan.

ROUTE 35

Route 35 is a circulator bus service within the Manayunk and Roxborough communities providing service to shopping and to medical services along Ridge Avenue and connections to other SEPTA routes at the Wissahickon Transportation Center. While the service is essential for seniors and others without access to an automobile, it is the lowest performing SEPTA City Transit route, with an 8% cost recovery from fares. This is far below the 19% minimum standard for City Division routes. Staff is proposing schedule changes to bring Route 35 closer to the minimum acceptable operating ratio.

Staff is proposing to modify service frequency from 30 minutes to 45 minutes on weekdays, similar to the current weekend service level, and to discontinue little used trips at the end of the service day. These changes would raise the cost recovery to 13%.

ROUTE 43

Route 43 operates from 50th Street & Parkside Avenue in West Philadelphia to Richmond & Cumberland Streets in Port Richmond. Due to the I-95 Girard Avenue interchange project, Route 43 has been detoured from its normal routing along Richmond and Beach Streets. The current detour takes the westbound route along Huntingdon Street, turning south onto Aramingo Avenue, and then resumes the regular routing at Delaware Avenue and Columbia Avenue. Some of SEPTA's customers have expressed a preference for the detour routing over the regular route. As part of the 2015 Annual Service Plan, various options for the Route 43 post-detour routing were evaluated, including both the original routing, as well as the current detour routing. The preferred option, however, is a routing similar to the current detour which uses the former Cumberland Street loop to turn around and then travels west on Cumberland before turning south on Aramingo Avenue. This option is less expensive than the current detour but retains the stops along Aramingo and Delaware Avenues, which have proven popular with passengers.

ROUTES 68, 108 and 116

Presently, Route 68 connects South Philadelphia with the UPS Air Hub, Route 108 connects 69th Street Transportation Center (TC) with Southwest Philadelphia, the UPS Air Hub, Philadelphia International Airport and the Airport Business Center, and Route 116 operates limited weekday service between 69th Street TC and the USPS facility at 74th Street and Lindbergh Boulevard. The following initiatives are proposed:

- Extend Route 68 weekday service to 69th Street TC replacing most Route 108 service to UPS (except late-evening and Owl service) and covering portions of Route 116
- Revise Route 108 so that all trips operating beyond 65th Street & Elmwood Avenue would serve Philadelphia International Airport
- Improve Route 108 weekday peak hour service to the Airport Business Center
- Improve Route 108 weekend service between 69th Street TC and Philadelphia International Airport
- Discontinue mid-day and evening Route 108 service to Airport Business Center due to low ridership
- Discontinue Route 116 and restructure extended Route 68 service via portions of Route 116

ROUTE 91

Route 91 operates on Saturdays only between Norristown Transportation Center and the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Graterford. Due to changes in access to SCI-Graterford created by a weight restricted bridge and the closing of an alternate access, SEPTA is operating on a long-term detour. The detour also provides closer access to the new prison currently under construction at the site. SEPTA is proposing changing the routing to reduce overlap with Route 93 and reduce trip mileage.

ROUTE 201

This route serves the Fort Washington Industrial Park, connecting to weekday Lansdale/Doylestown Regional Rail trains at Fort Washington Station. A minor routing adjustment is proposed to connect to a planned commercial development on Susquehanna Road.

ROUTES 205 and 206

Routes 205 and 206 serve various points in Great Valley from the Paoli Regional Rail Station, connecting with weekday peak period Paoli/Thorndale Regional Rail trains. Route 205 also makes selected trips to Phoenixville. Route 205, a contracted service, has been funded through PennDOT's U.S. Route 202, Section 300 reconstruction project. The proposal includes taking portions of Route 205 service and adding there to Route 206, while discontinuing Route 205 service to Phoenixville, due to low ridership. Route 205 service would instead be extended to new service areas within the Great Valley and Chesterbrook corporate centers, providing a direct connection from Paoli Regional Rail Station to the Chesterbrook employment center.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SEPTA SERVICE STANDARDS AND PROCESS

On Time Performance

The present transit standard for schedule adherence is based on scheduled headways and a percentage figure (frequencies range from 0 to 10 minutes and greater than 10 minutes, depending on day and time of day). The Regional Rail standard measures schedule adherence, with trains considered on time under 5 minutes and 59 seconds. SEPTA staff is examining ways to redefine on-time performance standards by mode and other qualitative factors.

Tariff Documents

A copy of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Service Plan and associated tariffs, which provide a detailed description of the proposed changes, is available for inspection at SEPTA's Customer Service Office, 1234 Market Street, Lobby, Philadelphia, PA 19107. The proposed Annual Service Plan with maps is on the SEPTA website at www.septa.org/notice. Links to the associated tariffs are also available there.

Public Hearings

Tuesday, April 22, 2014
12:00 PM and 5:00 PM
SEPTA Board Room
Mezzanine Level
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
7:00 PM
Montgomery Conference Room, 2nd FL
One Montgomery Plaza
425 Swede Street
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Wednesday, April 23, 2014
3:30 PM
Great Valley Corporate Center
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Malvern, PA 19355

If you require a sign language interpreter at any of the public hearings, please make your request known, in writing, to SEPTA, Service Planning, 1234 Market Street, 9th FL, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3780, no later than April 4, 2014.

A copy of the above notice and tariffs is also available to be heard at the offices of the Associated Services for the Blind, 919 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Sending Comments

If you cannot attend the public hearings, but wish to enter your comments, written comments will be entered into the record and be afforded the same consideration as if you attended and testified at the public hearings. All written comments should be received no later than Wednesday, April 23, 2014. Send your comments to SEPTA, Service Planning, 1234 Market Street, 9th FL, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3780.

If you wish to submit comments by e-mail, you may do so on the SEPTA website at www.septa.org/notice. A form to submit comments will be available.

Felicity Gilbert and Stacy Martin eye Shia LaBeouf in Lars Von Trier's "Nymphomaniac: Volume I."
CHRISTIAN GEISNAES

something is clearly a metaphor, Seligman actually points it out.) This isn't because Von Trier is afraid viewers won't get the reference; it's a running gag, and a hilarious one, that also adds rich texture to a film that would perhaps be monotonous without it. A film about addiction instead feels like it's about everything.

As for the bonking itself, it is — at least in this quasi-sanitized cut — nonjudgmental and refreshingly not miserable. Even at its most debased (in this volume, that is), it's the opposite of most art house shtupping, which tends to be depicted as what characters do instead of shooting each other repeatedly in the face. In fact, it's not very sexy, in part because it's so short, even when the actors are grappling with prosthetics. Von Trier floats the idea that sex without love is actually preferable — the opposite of what society, and sometimes even science, says. (A recent report claimed that women have bigger, more satisfying orgasms when having sex with a partner with whom she shares a history. This has been a semi-Seligman-esque aside.)

But even that worldview evolves over this volume. It's a big, open film, one that finds Von Trier prankish and disarmingly sincere, as with flashbacks to little girl Joe and her nature- and science-loving father, played endearingly by no less than Christian Slater. It's fragmented nature means it's not entirely traumatic when it suddenly stops.

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Loyal fans won't rebel

The attraction between Tris and Four builds almost as slowly onscreen as it does in the book. / SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

Book to movie.
Don't worry — the "Divergent" movie hews pretty close to the novel.

Virtually any time a movie based on a best-selling book comes out, waves of criticism follow about the differences between the two. But now that "Divergent" is (finally) in theaters, critical readers will be hard pressed to find inconsistencies.

The movie sticks extremely close to the book: The characters look like they should, post-apocalyptic Chicago is as bleak as described, and the sexual tension between Tris (Shailene Woodley) and Four (Theo James) is as thick as author Veronica Roth intended.

When we spoke with Maggie Q, who plays Tori, and Mekhi Phifer, who plays Dauntless leader Max, both actors told us that while Roth was on set most of the time, she kept her opinions to herself. "She's just so thrilled that all this is happening," said Maggie Q. "She's really smart and thoughtful about what we're doing with the film, but she was in no way looking over people's shoulders. She was just so open, which I think is really cool because when it's your material, sometimes you get too close to it."

Still, many actors did use Roth as a resource on set, asking specific questions about their characters' backstories and soliciting the author's insight. But while some actors took advantage of Roth's presence and the book, Phifer chose to study the script instead, in fear that the book would get in the way of how his character had been adapted for the film. "I want to read them [eventually], but I didn't want to be jaded," he told us.

In a past interview, Woodley mentioned that the book is 400 pages and the script is only 90 pages, so of course some things have to be left out. This presents itself primarily in some of the interrelationships between the characters, not the action or fighting. The romantic relationship between Christina (Zoe Kravitz) and Will (Ben Lloyd-Hughes) is boiled down to a fun flirtation. Al (Christian Madsen) also plays a much smaller part than in the book, not really forming any close friendships.

Still, the elements of the book that matter most are truly brought to life on the big screen. For fans of the book, seeing the movie will be far from a letdown — it will be a sweet reward.

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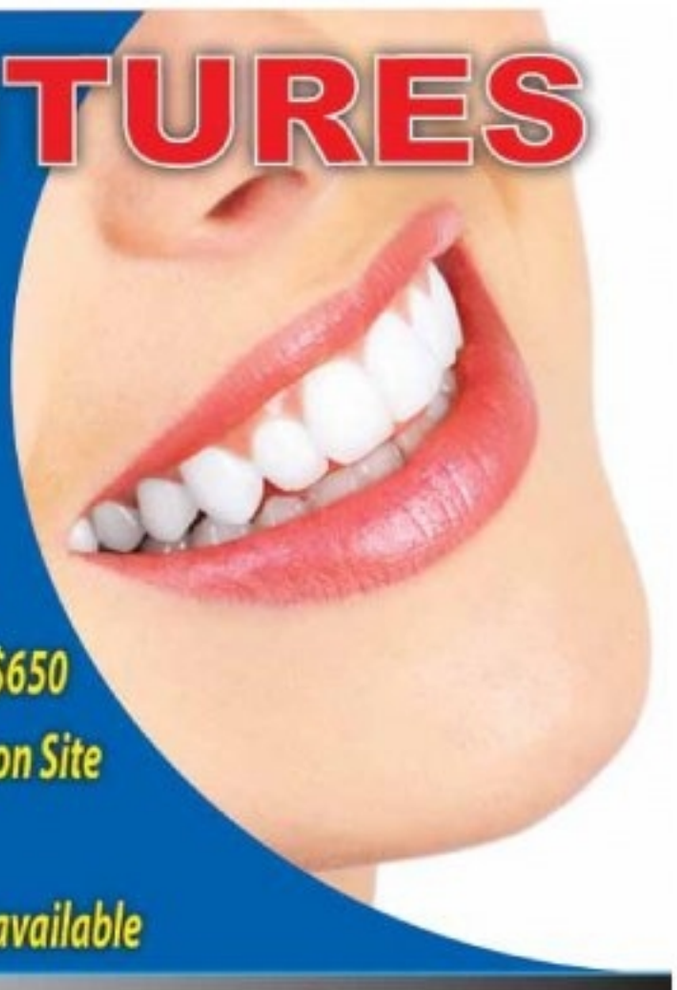

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Is Naya Rivera morphing into a Kardashian?

When we talk about "Glee" star Naya Rivera's breasts, in detail, as we're about to do, let's agree on one thing: She's always been a surprisingly busty girl. Those sporty uniforms that she and Dianna Agron rocked for so long on "Glee" did a pretty good job of hiding the headlights, but if you look at red carpet photos, you can tell that Naya's curves were always there.

However, there are curves, and then there are curves. Rumors are spreading that Naya had recently gotten some surgical enhancement after she posted this beach pic on her Instagram, rocking some Kardashian-level proportions (to the evident delight of her fiance, Big Sean).

Rivera's new Instagram photo is causing a storm. / INSTAGRAM

So did Naya get a breast enhancement? Not so, insists a source — it's just a case of a flattering camera angle and a very padded bikini top, according to E! Online. Which seems, well, not likely, but possible. Breasts are a mysterious thing. There's definitely padding going on there, but whether it's on the inside or outside is difficult to tell. Let's reserve judgment until "Glee" comes back and we can see those puppies in action. MELINDA TAUB

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
@dorothyatmetro
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Cameron Diaz is not the most secure

Cameron Diaz sure is a Debbie Downer. "Everybody has been cheated on, everyone will be cheated on. I can't fix that, I don't know how," Diaz tells the British edition of OK! Magazine.

(Actually, it's weird: It IS possible to not cheat on someone if you just decide not to cheat on someone. But don't tell her that.)

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A Schwarzenegger selfie

Even Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't immune to the attraction of a well-timed selfie. Here is the former California governor/action star at the premiere of his new film, "Sabotage," at Regal Cinemas L.A. on Wednesday night.

GETTY IMAGES

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Horoscope

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. It may take some extra effort on your part to get things moving. Change your tactics if you aren't getting the desired results.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Someone may try to include you in a dubious situation. Don't damage your reputation by becoming involved in something that goes against your beliefs.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. A new solution to an old problem will come your way. Show concern. Your objectivity may be called upon to defuse problem.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Be more aggressive in your drive to get ahead. Decisive action will give you the payoff you are looking for.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. A love connection is possible. You need to add some vitality to your life. Find a subject you are enthusiastic about, then get out and mingle.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You may be thrown off balance by a troubling situation at home. Stick to your original objectives. It's not the right time to make a commitment.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Those around you are inspired by your knowledge and insight. Your confidence makes you a dynamic presence.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Try not to get stuck on one thing when there is so much to do. You will accomplish more if you show greater diversity.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You may be easygoing, but don't allow anyone to treat you badly. If you don't stand up for yourself, you will be taken for granted in the future.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. You will soon see the benefits of your hard work. A project will be successful if you keep your intentions under your hat.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. There is a positive atmosphere surrounding your domestic life. Be sure to spend some time nurturing important relationships.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. A misunderstanding is likely to arise. Take care of any matter that has the potential to lead to trouble. Do your best to find a solution. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

					1		7	3
9						4		
2	3		6		5		9	
	5	2			8			4
			2	9	3			
8			5			2	3	
	9		8		6		2	5
		5						8
7	6		1					

	4		2	5				
				3		1	2	6
	6				1	4		
	3	8						7
	2	4				5	1	
1						8	3	
		6	5				8	
4	8	2		6				
				4	9		6	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Be more like Truman, Obama

Following a question on the Keystone pipeline, Secretary John Kerry said that after gathering all the information, he would make a recommendation to the president. But one wonders why, after more than five years of exhaustive study, President Obama cannot make up his own mind by himself. It has become painfully obvious that he wants to delay as long as possible and then distance himself from whatever decision is finally made. Obama also needs to decide if we are to export natural gas to Europe to counter the Russian stranglehold. The decision must be made quickly if we are to influence events in Ukraine. I am convinced that [Russian President] Vladimir Putin would take notice if the pipeline were approved, and Obama would approve the export of natural gas and fast-track development of U.S. export facilities. Instead, Obama has endless useless conversations with Putin and promises incremental sanctions. Harry Truman was admired as a president who could rapidly make a firm decision and stick to it. Obama needs to be more like Truman.

GEORGE CHRISTIAN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!

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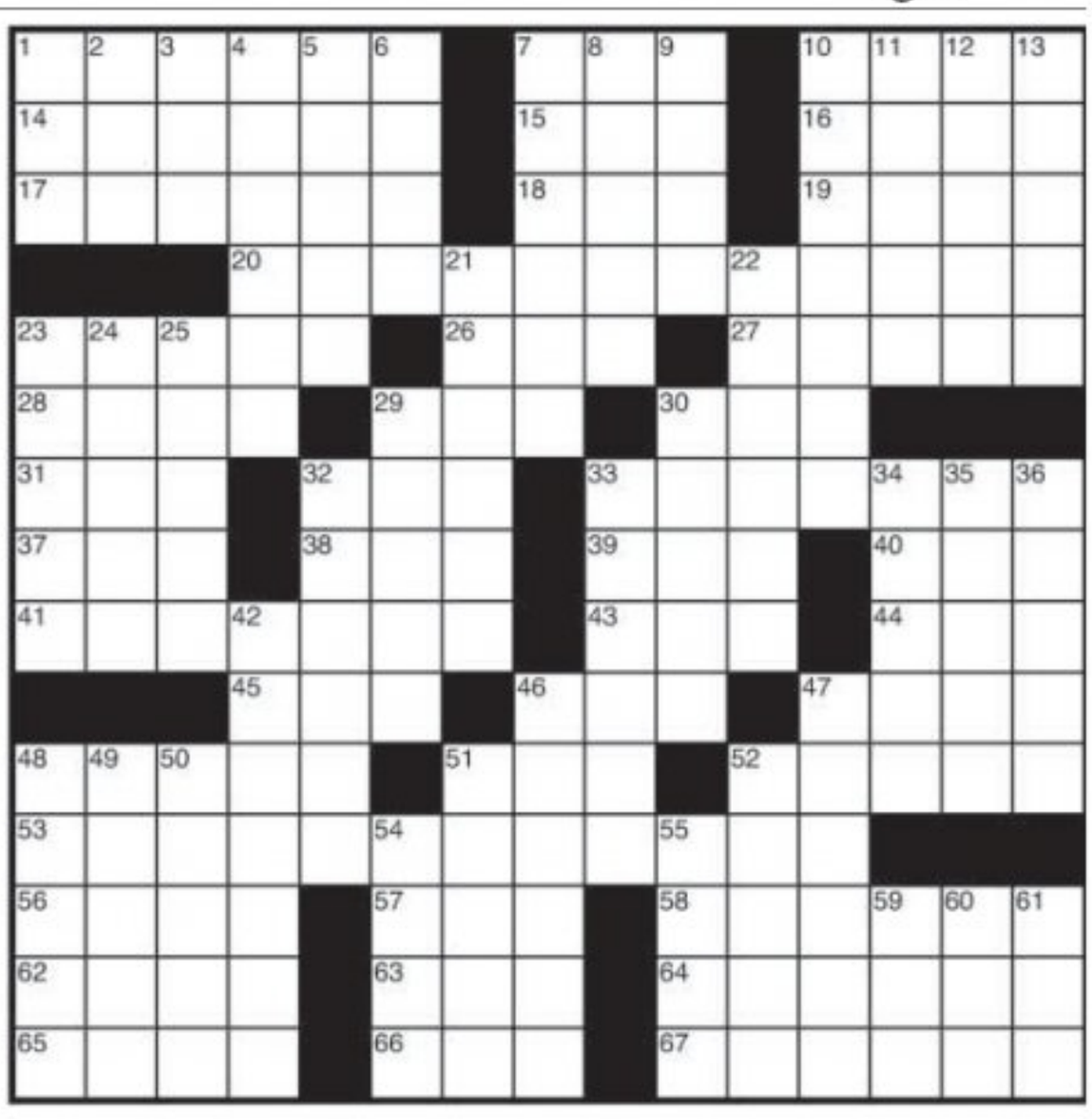
Across

1 Dawdle
7 Leprechaun kin
10 Bang
14 Bully's words
15 Moo goo — pan
16 Toy-block brand
17 Wide ties
18 Part of BYOB
19 Galley movers
20 Lawyer's charge (2 wds.)
23 — Lee Curtis
26 NASA destination
27 Mirage sights
28 Writer — Seton
29 "A-Team" star (2 wds.)
30 Jamaican dude
31 Orchestra locale
32 Garden-pond fish
33 Hold title to
37 Wood residue
38 Aleta's son
39 Top-rated
40 Motel of yore
41 Springtime activity
43 Codgers' queries
44 Earth, in combos
45 Mountain curve
46 Gulf st.
47 Scorch or burn
48 A moon of Saturn
51 — Paese cheese
52 Multitude
53 Booked
56 Nefertiti's god
57 Bruin ice great
58 Buzz the astronaut
62 Groovy
63 Witness
64 Grip tightly
65 Sea eagles
66 Env. abbr.
67 Throat feature

Down

1 Hawaii's Mauna—
2 1040 agcy.
3 Toshiba competitor
4 Archie Bunker's daughter
5 Helena rival
6 Lull
7 "Me" devotee
8 Grassy places
9 Done with, to Descartes
10 Mottos
11 Flips pages
12 Think alike
13 Malone of the NBA
21 Being broadcast
22 Large slipknots
23 Shogun's domain
24 Biscotto flavoring
25 Joseph Campbell forte
29 New days
30 High-grade coffee
32 Kind of roll
33 Saffron dish
34 Alpine peak
35 Links champ Sam—
36 Nocturnal disturbance
42 Lease signers
46 Search out
47 Very wet
48 Lane or Keaton
49 Prefix for "change"
50 Globe feature
51 Flat cap
52 "Yo!"
54 Thing, in Spain
55 Diplomat's asset
59 ER personnel
60 Here, in Paris
61 Canucks' org.



Thursday's answer

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3 SPORTS

On the rise

Eagles' title chances increase

Thanks to some savvy offseason moves, the Eagles' Super Bowl odds have increased from 26/1 after the season ended up to 18/1. This represents one of the biggest jumps in the NFL during that span. The Eagles have brought in Darren Sproles, Malcolm Jenkins and have re-signed several kep players since free agency began.

Edu proud to be back in America, leading Union

MLS. Maurice Edu has made his return to American soccer and is excited about the potential of this year's Union squad.

It seems more often than not that soccer players growing up in the United States are looking to further their careers internationally. Leagues like the Champions League and various Premier Leagues seem to attract the biggest and brightest names in soccer who are playing on the largest stage.

But after having his shot to play under the bright lights for top clubs like the Glasgow Rangers and Stoke City in Europe, defensive midfielder Maurice Edu saw something growing back in his home country.

After a six-year hiatus, he's back in the MLS and has helped the Union (1-0-1) start off their 2014 campaign on the right foot.

"It's really good to be back," said Edu. "When I left I always had the intention and desire to come back at some point to help further soccer's popularity in America. While I've been gone the league has made tremendous strides in terms of growth, the quality of play and in pretty much every other way you can imagine. I'm hoping to add to that growth and I'm excited for this opportunity."

Maurice Edu and the Union have started 1-0-1 in 2014. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"On the pitch we'll be a lot more competitive and prepared from that extra work that's put in. That's what makes a successful team."

Maurice Edu

Edu spent two seasons with Toronto FC before packing his bags for Europe. He was named the MLS Rookie of the Year in 2007. While in Europe, he won two Scottish Premier League Cups with the Glasgow Rangers in 2010 and 2011.

This season, he's trying to fill the defensive and leadership void left by captain Jeff Parke who was traded by the Union in the offseason.

"Being in a leadership role is something that I've welcomed here with the Union and something that I'm excited about moving forward," Edu said. "I like to be able to lead by example, but I've also worked on being more vocal on the pitch and let guys feed off of the experience I have."

Edu, whose also registered 45 appearances for the U.S. National Team, thinks this Union team is built for success. He's been impressed by his teammates in practice.

"I've been very impressed with the work ethic and the desire of the guys on this team," said Edu. "Most guys are in early and doing the things that they need to do to be better players."

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

Edu on the fans

New star feels the love in Philadelphia

Since his arrival in the preseason, Maurice Edu has felt completely embraced by area soccer fans.

"They've been unbelievable," Edu said. "Since the rumor broke that Philadelphia might be interested in me, my Twitter feed was going crazy and this was before anything was even made official. When I finally was signed and I took the field for that first home opener last weekend, I really saw what it meant to the fans. I could see the passion on their faces and the singing and the chants just adds to the atmosphere that you want as a player. You want fans that have an appreciation for your game and take the game seriously and that's what Union fans are."

The Union face Columbus Saturday at 6 p.m. on the Comcast Network. JEFF MCMENAMIN

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NO CREDIT? BAD CREDIT? SLOW PAY?

Sixers center Nerlens Noel could help the team end its losing streak if he returns this year. / GETTY IMAGES

Noel still mum on cryptic tweet

NBA. After sending a widely interpreted tweet, Nerlens Noel's likelihood of playing this season is still unknown.

In the world of social media that now engulfs us all, this tweet, recently sent by Nerlens Noel caught everyone's attention — 4-4-14.

Since Noel hasn't addressed it, it's still unclear what the tweet actually means. Yet the tweet has been retweeted more than 2,000 times, so people are definitely curious.

In a 76ers season which has spun out of control — 22 losses overall and 17 straight at home — this is news.

On April 4, the Sixers play the Celtics at TD Garden. Noel, the intriguing rookie center acquired by the Sixers last June on draft night, is from the Boston area.

More than a year ago, Noel had surgery to repair the ACL in his left knee. He has been practicing in 3-on-3 and 4-on-4 drills.

Could the former standout from the University of Kentucky finally make his Sixers debut in Boston?

With such a vague tweet, we'll just have to wait and see.

Forward Thaddeus Young already sees some promising signs.

"You can look and see that he can be a great player," Young said. "He's got all the skills. He's got the attitude.

"I've participated in some drills against him, and we competed hard. I didn't give him any breaks or back down."

Noel played just 24 games for the Wildcats, but was still named the SEC Defensive Player of the Year.

Whether he plays his first NBA game this season or next season, Noel will help a struggling franchise. And that's something worth watching.

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NOT ALL SPRING STATS ARE MEANINGLESS

Baseball players use spring training to work on a new swing, stretch out their arms and soak up sunshine. On the surface, preseason stats mean nothing.

But buried deeper, we can find nuggets worth sinking our teeth into.

The Jimmy Rollins who will play shortstop for the Phillies this year is a far cry from the player who won the 2007 NL MVP. / GETTY IMAGES

Speed demon

With an average draft position around 127, Reds outfielder Billy Hamilton is more mid-round value than true sleeper. But those with an eye on spring statistics will take him far closer to the fifth round than the 10th.

The 23-year-old Hamilton already has six walks and 10 hits in 33 plate appearances, squashing the concerns he won't be able to get on base enough to use his speed. He's tied with the Dodgers' Dee Gordon for the most steals in spring training with nine.

Slow your Roll

Last year, Jimmy Rollins hit .252 with six homers, 39 RBIs and 22 steals. Yet some are absolutely convinced he still has something left in the tank.

The Phillies aren't among those people, especially given recent rumors they want to trade him as soon as possible.

Rollins is hitting .091 with one homer and one steal through 27 spring plate appearances. There's a lot more name than game in the 35-year-old Rollins. Avoid him at all costs.

Battle royale

Just like in the NFL, position battles are crucial elements of the exhibition season. Exhibit A is in Seattle, where Brad Miller is putting a hurting on Nick Franklin for the starting shortstop gig.

Miller, a 2011 second-round pick, is hitting .412 with four homers though 34 plate appearances.

The beating has gotten so bad that Franklin is reportedly now on the trade block. With speed and power to burn at a scarce position, Miller is an ideal sleeper candidate.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

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MLB. Abreu making case to make Phillies when camp breaks

Bobby Abreu seems primed to join the Phillies in Arlington against the Rangers on March 30. / GETTY IMAGES

Bobby Abreu is no stranger to Clearwater. During his first stint with the Phillies he spent parts of nine preseasons with the team on the west coast of Florida, preparing for the his nine seasons in red and white.

But, at 40 years old, Abreu has a different mentality in spring training this year. He wants to make the big league club and make the trip up north to Philadelphia.

Abreu helped his cause Thursday, as he drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI double in a 6-3 win over the Astros in a split-squad game.

Playing the outfield, he also had an assist, throwing out a runner with his arm blazing much like it did when he was a young man, an All-Star for the Phillies and later a key contributor for the Yankees and Angels.

The lefty has stepped up his game recently with the Phillies, tallying six hits in his last five games.

On March 12 against the Orioles, Abreu collected five total bases.

The rest of the offense is hitting its stride, as well. In the win against Houston on Thursday, the team had 13 hits, with five Phillies knocking two hits including leadoff man Ben Revere. EVAN MACY

Hamels progresses

Hamels to face live batters this weekend

Not surprisingly, the Phillies announced that injured ace Cole Hamels would not appear in Clearwater this spring. But, the lefty does plan to pitch live batting practice this weekend. METRO

Buchanan strong

Blue Jays defeat Phils split squad

While half the squad was collecting hits against the Astros Thursday, the other half fell 3-1 to the Blue Jays. David Buchanan struck out six and allowed just three hits in four innings. METRO

Roughed up

Ruf could miss opening day

Darin Ruf has been vying for a bench spot on the Phillies roster all spring, but a strained left oblique kept him out of Thursday's split-squad game, and the power-hitting first baseman and outfielder could miss some time. METRO

Sales slump

Phillies ticket sales are down

After a 257-game sell-out streak that ended in 2012, the Phillies are facing a decrease in season ticket sales. The tally is down to near 19,000, from 24,000 last year. There are also still tickets available for the Home Opener on April 7. METRO

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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seq., A Public Auction Will take Place on **3/25/14** at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. **Public Storage Located At, 6330 Market St, Upper Darby, PA 19082 at 10.30 AM (610) 352-5709.**

A055 - Rice Jr, Norberth • A150 - Lattie, Kishona • A177 - Hunslow, Jonathan • B271 - Wimberley, Deymond
B325 - BROADNAX, LEANNDRA • B346 - Beckford, Joyce • B360 - Peterson, Chanee • B366 - Sheets, Maxine
B386 - Holland, De Lois • B409 - Smith, Shakal • B428 - Edwards, Deneen • B461 - FROST, DELORES • B505 - Powell, Lawyne
C393 - Parker, Stacia • C618 - Moore, Raynell • C654 - Jones, Wayne • C656 - REDDING, LEONIA • C672 - Shanel, Wayne
C726 - BOBO, KIMIKA • C757 - Proctor, John • C770 - High, Shirita • C843 - Williams, Mary

All Sales Are subject to Cancellation Public Storage Terms, Rules and Regulations will be made prior to the sale. PS Orangeco Inc. 701 Western Ave. Glendale California, 91201. PS ORANGECO, INC

Public Storage — NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

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B102 - Gaines, Jacqueline • B222 - Patel, Shailesh • C032 - Saraceni, Michael
C091 - Levenuk, Donna • C240 - Opong-Poprah, Rosemary
C245 - JACOBS, RAYMOND • C263 - Jones, Constance

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Public Storage — NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

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A314 - Starks, Deborah • A827 - Staley Jr., Jerome
B1018 - Schwering, Kelly • B926 - Stout, Ronald • C5010 - Aggie, Jazmin

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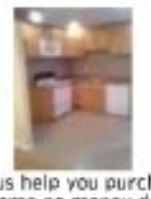

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To learn more about participating in the study, contact the University of Pennsylvania Department of Anesthesia & Critical Care at 215-573-8209.

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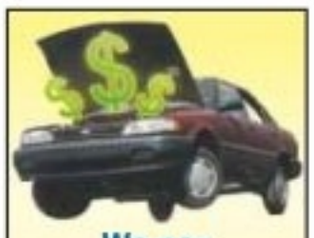

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